

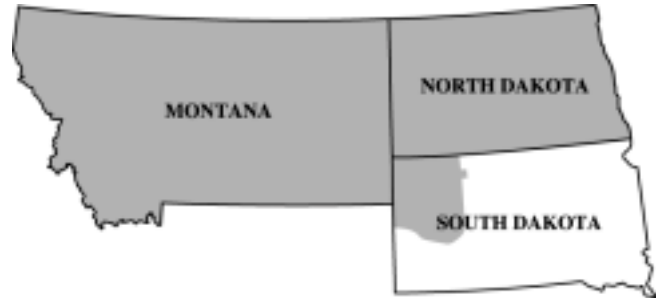


December 2001

Interagency Off-Highway Vehicle Project

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- \$ BLM and Forest Service issued a final environmental impact statement/plan amendment January 5, 2001.
- \$ The preferred alternative restricts motorized wheeled cross-country travel on 16 million acres in Montana, North Dakota and portions of South Dakota.
 - \$ Exceptions: emergency and necessary administrative use; lease and permit holders subject to the provisions of their permits or leases; camping within 300 feet of roads or trails; disabled access per the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and firewood and Christmas tree cutting in specific areas where allowed by the local office.
- \$ The Forest Service issued a record of decision (ROD) with the final EIS. BLM will issue a ROD after resolving the eight protests it received.



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- \$ The BLM and FS Northern Region administer 26.6 million acres in Montana/Dakotas.
- \$ OHV traffic has increased 92 percent since 1990; many land use plans were written prior to 1990.
- \$ When the EIS process began, 16 million acres were open to motorized cross-country travel, which could allow the spread of noxious weeds, create user conflicts, cause erosion, damage cultural sites, and disrupt wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- \$ The goal of the EIS/plan amendment is to prevent these problems and take the first step towards the long-term goal of designating routes through site-specific planning.



Cross-country travel causes resource damage.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- \$ Through site-specific planning, the BLM and FS will inventory, map, analyze and designate roads and trails as open, seasonally open, or closed.
- \$ Agencies will prioritize site-specific planning areas within 6 months of the ROD.
 - \$ High Priority: within 2 years.
 - \$ Medium Priority: within 5 years.
 - \$ Low Priority: as resources are available.
- \$ Funding will be necessary to complete site-specific planning and signing.

WHO ELSE IS CONCERNED?

- \$ BLM and FS began public scoping in January 1999.
- \$ The agencies distributed a draft EIS/plan amendment on November 15, 1999.
- \$ About 2,300 comment letters arrived during the 90-day public comment period which ended February 24, 2000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact George Peternel at 406-896-5037; Jody Weil at 406-896-5258; or visit our website at www.mt.blm.gov/ea/ohv/index.html.



Traveling on an open road or trail will continue.



Cross-country travel is restricted.